

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action of November 4, 2004 the examiner noted that claims 34-49 should be renumber claims 32-47. They are renumbered as such.

In the Office Action dated November 4, 2004, the Examiner also rejected independent claims 1, 34 (now 32) and 49 (now 47) over the prior art references of O'Donnell and Rather. The Examiner stated these references both disclose systems and methods for detecting acoustic signals (Office Action, section 3).

However, it will be noted that O'Donnell and Rather are distinct from the invention. Claims 1 and 32 are amended to highlight differences. Claims 1 and 32 are amended to include that the detectors are "light amplitude modulation detectors." Light amplitude modulation detectors are distinct from both O'Donnell and Rather. O'Donnell discloses the use of coherent light detectors and the O'Donnell reference's technology is based on properties of coherent light. Similarly, the Rather reference discloses the use of coherent light detectors and the Rather reference's technology is also based on properties of coherent light.

Independent claim 47 includes the structure:

"a lens positioned to focus light signals received from individual regions of the target object onto the photodetectors, the light signals being modulated in a manner corresponding to vibrations of the individual regions"

This clause makes it clear that the photodetectors are detecting modulated light signals.

The other references cited by the Examiner do not supply the elements or combinations of elements that are lacking in O'Donnell and Rather, and accordingly independent claims 1 and 32 as amended (as well as their dependent claims) and claim 47 are believed to be in condition for allowance, notice whereof is requested.

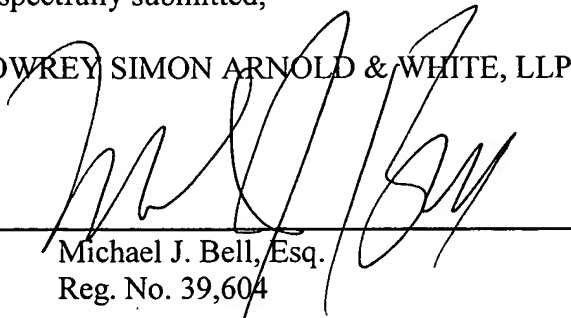
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in proper form and condition for patentability, and requests a notification of allowance to that effect. Outside the fee for the Extension of Time Petition, it is believed that no other fee is due at this time. However, the Commissioner is nonetheless authorized hereby to charge any additional fees that may be due, including extension fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 08-3038 (Order No. 06887.0003.NPUS00).

Respectfully submitted,

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